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Identical letters dated 13 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In reference to my letter dated 10 July 2014 (A/68/949-S/2014/484), and upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith the report of the special investigative judicial commission established pursuant to decision No. 2617/L (2014) of the Minister of Justice (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 13 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Report of the special investigative judicial commission established pursuant to decision No. 2617/L (2014) of the Minister of Justice

Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Supreme Judicial Council,

We, the members of the special investigative judicial commission established pursuant to your decision No. 2617/L of 9 July 2014, Judge Ayman Abdulnasir Ali al Daqqaq, Attorney General of Hama, Judge Arkan Sattam Ibrahim, Chief Public Prosecutor of Hama, Judge Abdulahmid Umar al Sayid, Investigative Judge in Hama, and Judge Muhannad Ghassan Zurayq, Deputy Public Prosecutor of Hama, would like to inform you that we were advised of your above-mentioned decision and took note of the mandate set out therein to investigate the terrorist crime that was committed in the village of Khattab, Hama governorate, and led to the death of a number of innocent civilians. Commission member Judge Zurayq, Deputy Public Prosecutor of Hama, accompanied by coroner Fadi Ibrahim, immediately went to the national hospital in Hama to examine the corpses of the victims of the massacre. In total, he examined 12 corpses of victims of the horrific terrorist massacre that occurred in Khattab, including four men (Mustafa Ahmad al Allush, Muhannad Abdulmu'in Mawwas, Basil Abdulmu'in Mawwas and Sha'lan Ahmad al Husayn) and eight women (Fatima Hasan al Mahmud, A'ishah Ibrahim al Bakri, Khasfah Fayad al Ba'rini, Siham Adnan al Hamad, Rim Ahmad al Allush, Khadijah Khalid Hassun, Safirah Ahmad al Husayn and Khadijah Khalid al Hasan). Medical and judicial examination of the corpses of Hamzah Muhammad al Hamud and his brother Khalid Muhammad al Hamud, the other victims of the massacre, was conducted by a single military judge from Hama, because one of the latter two victims was a member of the military.

Also on 9 July 2014, the commission went to the Hama outer-city police station and reviewed the investigation that was under way and the first pictures taken of the victims of the massacre. Accordingly, the judicial commission decided to conduct a physical inspection of the site where the massacre occurred, hear the statements of witnesses and the victims' relatives, gather evidence at the scene of the crime and expand the investigation, with a view to successfully concluding the investigation and identifying the perpetrators and duly bringing them to justice. We instructed the Hama outer-city police department to continue pursuing both secret and public investigations and to brief immediately the investigative commission about ongoing investigations.

That same day, the investigative commission visited Mustafa Khalid al Shadhili, one of the survivors of the massacre, at the national hospital in Hama. His statement was duly recorded, as was that of his son, Fadi Mustafa al Shadhili, who also happened to be present.

On 10 July 2014, the investigative commission duly heard and recorded in separate transcripts the statements of seven of the victims' relatives and of five victims.

On 12 July 2014, once security conditions were adequate, the investigative commission, with the support of the Hama outer-city police and personnel from the forensics unit, established the site at which the horrific massacre occurred in the village of Khattab. The investigative commission examined the village square cum playing field, the site of the massacre, and a number of the houses of the victims' families and some of the survivors' houses that were damaged by the murderous terrorists. A total of nine houses were examined and the forensics personnel who accompanied the investigative commission photographed them.

The Hama outer-city police provided the special investigative judicial commission with a copy of its preliminary report into the massacre committed in Khattab by armed terrorist gangs. This report, which is numbered 1267 and dated 9 July 2014, also covers the investigation conducted by the commission.

Upon the request of the commission, the single military judge from Hama provided a certified copy of the investigations and medical examinations conducted in relation to the two military victims of the massacre perpetrated in Khattab by the terrorists.

Based on the preliminary and judicial investigations, the identities of six of the murderous terrorists who committed the massacre were established. Upon its request, the commission was given copies of the personal data of each of the murderous criminals.

Accordingly, based on the above-mentioned ongoing investigation, the powers vested in the commission pursuant to article 2 of the decision by which it was established and the Syrian Code of Criminal Procedure, particularly articles 54 and 114 thereof, the commission decided, in accordance with the powers conferred on investigating judges by the Code of Criminal Procedure, to issue arrest warrants for the murderous criminals who committed the terrorist massacre in Khattab and whose identities had been established. Those persons are Mahmud Muhammad al Zuhuri, Abdulmajid Ahmad Ali, Ahmad Faris Khafif, Muhammad Abdulghani al Mahmud, Hayyan Radwan al Akhras and Wa'il Abdulrahman Isma'il. The arrest warrants were given to Hama governorate police for circulation and execution. The investigative commission retained photocopies of those warrants and handed over all materials related to the Public Prosecutor's investigation to the Terrorism Court in Damascus.

Conclusion

Based on the above-mentioned investigations, it was established that, at approximately 10.30 p.m. on 8 July 2014, a group of 200 armed terrorists stormed the village of Khattab, which lies north-west of Hama city. Some of the terrorists wore military uniforms while others were clothed in *jalabiyahs*. The majority of them were masked, with only their eyes visible, and arrived in pickups, vans and motorcycles, firing their weapons. They selected some residents from a number of houses in Khattab and took them by force to the village square, which also serves as a dirt football field. Some of them were released while the rest were detained. The terrorist group remained in the village until 4 a.m. on 9 July 2104. Once the group

had withdrawn, the families of those who had been detained by the terrorist gang went to the village square cum playing field, where they found their children and women had been shot dead at close range. The victims had been shot in the head or the eye, and some of the corpses had subsequently been decapitated. It was also established that the terrorists had looted the houses of several of the victims and their families, as well as some other houses, from which they took cash, gold jewellery and a large number of mobile telephones. They also stole cars and motorcycles and burned several of the houses that they had robbed. The investigation established the identities of six of the murderous terrorist criminals and warrants for their arrest were duly issued. All materials related to the Public Prosecutor's investigation were handed over to the Terrorism Court in Damascus.

The commission has thus duly concluded its mandated task.

Hama, 26 July 2014

Please review and forward. Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Abdulhamid **al-Sayid**
Investigating Judge

(*Signed*) Muhannad **Zurayq**
Deputy Public Prosecutor

(*Signed*) Arkan **Ibrahim**
Chief Public Prosecutor

(*Signed*) Ayman Abdulnasir **al-Daqqaq**
Attorney General of Hama